

## SUICIDE AND MURDER.

## Thos. Williamson Attempts his Life by Taking Strychnine.

Says he Was Tired of Living and Wanted to Meet his God.

## Later Developments Show that he is Probably the Murder of Jeff Moore.

## The Moore Inquest Held To-day and the Verdict Rendered.

## Williamson Rattles off a Spurious Tale in the Jail to a Reporter.

## The Dead Body of His Wife Found and Exhumed To-day.

Information was sent to police headquarters this morning about 10 o'clock that an old man had attempted to commit suicide in Sieber's Park, by taking strychnine.

Officer Gossage with two or three others immediately went to the park, where they found Thos. Williamson lying on the floor in the machinery hall. He was conveyed to the Salvation Army barracks, where medical aid was summoned and antidotes were given. At the hour of going to press his condition was favorable and he will probably recover.

Williamson is a man apparently 60 years old and has been living with Jeff Moore, two and one half miles southeast of Sedalia for the past two months. When questioned about his attempt to commit suicide, said he was tired of living and wanted to meet his God.

Later developments give better reasons for Williamson's actions, than "tired of living." About 1 o'clock to-day, Albert Paxton, a farmer, living two and one-half miles southeast of Sedalia, reported to Marshall Prentice that the dead body of Jeff Moore had been found buried in the cellar under his (Moore's) house, and that one Thos. Williamson was suspected of the murder.

Paxton was taken to the Salvation Army, where he recognized Williamson as the one last seen around Moore's place. Coroner Overstreet was notified and an inquest will probably be held next Wednesday.

Mr. Paxton in conversation with a BAZOO representative related the following:

Williamson came to this section of the country about two months ago and has been staying with Jeff Moore and his son, Charlie, who were living on their farm about two and one half miles southeast of Sedalia and nothing unusual had been noticed about the house or its occupants. About a week ago Aug. Brenicke a farmer, living in the same neighborhood with Moore, sold him some rails. Moore commenced to haul them away at once, promising to pay for them soon. Brenicke went to Moore's place Thursday morning after the money. Moore told him he would pay him the next day. Brenicke returned to Moore's place Friday morning but Moore was not to be found. Williamson when asked about Moore's whereabouts said he did not know where he was. Williamson was seen hauling dirt to Moore's house Saturday morning. This aroused the suspicions of the neighboring farmers and this morning they set about searching for Moore, and his body was found buried in the cellar under his house. As soon as the body was discovered, Mr. Paxton started for town. He did not know whether the body showed any marks of violence or not. Chas. Moore has been absent about two weeks, and it is feared that he has shared the fate of his father.

Wm. Bryan, captain of the Salvation Army, told a BAZOO representative that Williamson has been testifying there as to his conviction for the past two weeks, and that his talk was anything but like that of a person of good mind.

Should Williamson recover from the strychnine he has taken, he will probably board with the state at Jefferson City the remainder of his days.

LATER.

In yesterday's issue of the BAZOO was chronicled, very briefly, one of the most atrocious crimes that was ever recorded in the annals of the history of Pettis county. As stated, Jefferson Moore was found buried in the cellar under his house, and that Thomas Williamson, who had attempted suicide by taking strychnine, was suspected, was about as much of the particulars as could

be obtained up to the hour of going to press yesterday. Developments later in the afternoon show that Chas. Moore, son of Jefferson, had been murdered and was found buried, face down, about two hundred yards from the house, where his father was found.

On arrival of the coroner at the scene of murder the bodies were exhumed which showed the death of both the old man and his son was caused by a blow struck with some sharp instrument. The old man received two blows, one over the left eye and the other back of the right ear. Both bodies were brought to this city yesterday afternoon and placed in the third story of McLaughlin Bros. undertaking establishment where they were viewed by about one-fourth of the population of Sedalia.

Constable Ramsey, after returning from the Moore farm arrested Williamson and removed him from the Salvation Army barracks to the jail, and his recovery is beyond doubt, and up to the hour of going to press he was resting easy.

Deputy Sheriff Barnett in conversation with a BAZOO representative said that Williamson acknowledged to him that he killed the Moore's and said he had an accomplice. Mr. Barnett called on Williamson this morning, who said he did not want to talk, as Barnett was to smart a man.

The coroner's inquest was held this morning in the criminal court room before the following jury: John Stryker, F. S. McClure, John Mayfield, Frank Rofse, M. O. Patrick, D. Hughes. The witnesses were questioned very closely by Coroner Overstreet, and the following verdict was returned by the jury:

We, the jury, find that Jefferson Moore and Charles Moore came to their death by the hands of a man known by the name of Thomas Williamson.

The evidence given before the inquest is substantially the same as published in yesterday's BAZOO.

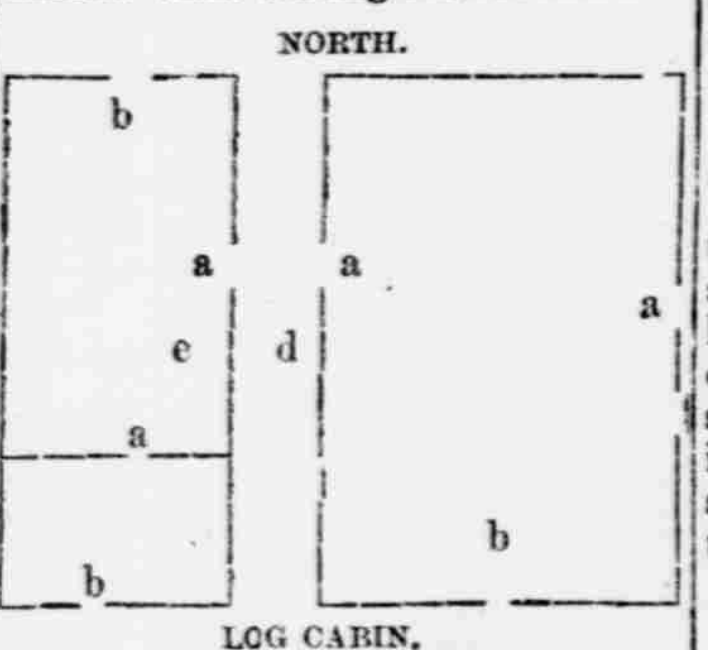
## WHO IS WILLIAMSON?

He has lived in this county a number of years on land belonging to Col. Crawford. He is a brother-in-law of Mat Reed, who resides on Walnut creek. He married Reed's sister.

Doc Middleton knew Williamson. He met Williamson and his wife on the public highway two years ago with a push cart. Williamson was pulling the cart and his wife was pushing. They had the cart loaded with their worldly goods. They complained of being poor and hungry. Doc gave them a small amount of money to relieve the pangs of hunger. Doc sent them to this city, telling them that Col. Crawford was mayor and would give him work. He recognized Williamson as the same man in the jail to-day.

## STILL LATER.

The developments of to-day add another victim to the list of those so wantonly murdered by Thomas Williamson. This time the body of his wife was found, whom he said died in Illinois while visiting friends there.



a.—Doors.  
b.—Windows.  
c.—Where his wife's body was found.  
d.—Space between the buildings.  
e.—Where the woman is supposed to have been murdered.

During the early part of last fall, Williamson, with his wife, lived in a log cabin on the farm of W. R. Dudley, about six miles northwest of Sedalia. They left there some time in September or October, Williamson coming to Sedalia, doing odd jobs around, but the whereabouts of his wife at that time was not known.

Last November, Williamson went back to this place, and as he passed the house, pointed to the place where his wife was buried saying, "Don't touch that place, as I have parsnip bed there."

Nothing was thought of the remark until the developments of the last few days. This morning, Albert Bradley remembering the remark made by Williamson, visited the spot referred to and dug down about twelve inches when he struck something which proved to be the body of Williamson's wife. The

body was lying on the left side facing east with her knees drawn to her stomach, and had been shoved into the ground feet first. She was buried with her clothes on, about ten feet south of the house, where they lived. As soon as the body was found word was sent to Coroner Overstreet, who in company with Constable Ramsey visited the scene and returned at noon with the remains. There were no marks of violence on the body that could be discovered, but should there have been any, it would be almost impossible to find them, as the body was so badly decomposed. The remains were placed in the rear of McLaughlin Bros., where they will remain until after the inquest which will be held to-morrow.

The supposition is that Williamson killed his wife in the house, about in the place shown by the letter "E." An ax was found by some boys about 100 yards distant from the house covered with blood and long hairs, and it is supposed he used the same kind of an instrument to kill his wife that he used to murder the remainder of his victims.

A BAZOO representative called at the jail this morning, and, in company with Sheriff Smith, sought Williamson in his cell, where he was lying on a mattress with his head thrown back and eyes half closed. At first, Williamson spoke in a very feeble voice, but when informed by the sheriff that all such pretenses would have no effect, he braced up and spoke in a loud clear voice. He answered all questions readily and objected to nothing. To Sheriff Smith, Williamson told the following story.

"My wife visited some friends near Calhoun during the first part of the year where she stayed about two weeks, and returned to my house on Muddy creek. She had been home about two or three weeks when she was taken with the cramp colic and died. We had no physician, because I could not leave her long enough to get one. I do not remember whether there were any neighbors present or not. She died about sun down and we buried her in about an hour after she died. We had no coffin. I do not remember how deep we dug her grave. We buried her about ten feet from the house. I was her third husband. I was not acquainted with any of my neighbors. I was present when both the old man and Charlie Moore were killed. Charlie was out in the field and was hit in the back of the head with an axe. I helped to bring him in the brush. I came to town three or four times to tell about Charley's being killed, but my conscience would not let me. Old man Moore was struck three or four times with an axe while he was sitting in front of the fireplace. John Brenicke put him in the cellar and threatened to shoot me if I did not put the dirt on him. I put the mattress in the out house myself after the old man had been killed, because it was full of bugs. After old man Brenicke found out I had the strychnine in me, he tells about the whole affair and tries to lay all the blame on me."

This is all he would say and the reporter bid him good morning.

The story about Brenicke killing the old man is probably false, as they are highly spoken of by those who know them as being peaceable and quiet sort of people. Nothing was said to Williamson about his wife being found, but his location of where she was buried conforms strictly to the place where she was found.

## LATEST.

Mrs. Moore, wife of the murdered man, was arrested at her home in East Sedalia late yesterday afternoon, charged with being implicated in the crime committed by Williamson. She was seen by a BAZOO representative this morning to whom she stated that she had nothing whatever to do with the crime, and that when she found out that old man Moore had been murdered she could not have been hurt worse unless she had been struck.

"Old man Moore and I parted about a year ago," said Mrs. Moore, "and it was on account of our families. The old man and I got along as well as any two persons could. I think I have been arrested on account of some stories Williamson has been telling, but as true as there is a God in heaven I did not have anything to do with the killing of Moore and his son, and all I know about it is what I have read in the newspapers, and what people have told me."

With this the reporter left her, and in company with Sheriff Smith visited Williamson, who related substantially the same story as published in the BAZOO yesterday. He still sticks to the fact that his wife died with cramp colic, and that he does not remember who was present when she died nor when she was buried.

anything for her when she was taken sick, said: "The people were so curious to know where she was that I told them that story just to get rid of them. I gave her some vinegar and salts, but that did not do her much good."

When Williamson was questioned about Moore and his son, related the same old story: Anamos and Brenicke killed Charlie and the old man. He says he took the old man's watch after he was dead, and that he told the story about giving the man \$4 for it, just to be telling something. He also claims that Brenicke wrote the lease to the farm, and bill of sale for the stock, and that it was made out in his name just to get him in trouble.

When Williamson was informed that his wife had been found, his countenance seemed to fall and his speech was rather weak.

He is rapidly growing stronger and will doubtless be able in a few days to stand a trial. He says he is going to plead not guilty to the charge of murder, and guilty to the charge of burying them.

## THE INQUEST.

The coroner's inquest was held this morning over the body of Mrs. Williamson, at McLaughlin Bros. undertaking establishment. The jury composed of E. E. Johnson as foreman, S. C. Gold, D. Hughes, W. H. Ritchey, Will McCluney and Hanley Pilkington, and after viewing the body and hearing the evidence, which revealed nothing new, rendered the following verdict:

"We, the jury, find that Mrs. Williamson came to her death by the hands of her husband, who is known as Thos. Williamson."

The remains were buried this afternoon in the Sedalia cemetery at the expense of the county.

## SEARCHING FOR ANOTHER.

A search is being made of the premises on which Williamson lived last summer, for a boy that lived with him and his wife. Williamson told several parties that the boy had gone to Morgan county. Up to the hour of going to press nothing had been heard from the parties that are making the investigation.

## VISITORS AT THE JAIL.

Sheriff Smith is the most popular man in town to-day. He has been busy all day attending to the callers at the jail, which number up into the hundreds, and who are eager to catch a glimpse of Murder Williamson. The sheriff refuses none admittance and says he is glad to have them call. This should certainly be appreciated by the public.

## PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION.

A BAZOO representative called on Prosecuting Attorney Longan, from whom he learned that Williamson will not have a hearing before next Wednesday, as there are so many witnesses to be subpoenaed. Mrs. Moore will not have her hearing until Williamson's examination is completed.

WOMEN'S health is dependent upon regular monthly uterine action. Interfere with this grand function of female life, and disease will be the result. Nature demands regular action, and her laws cannot be violated unless at the expense of health. This function, this monthly secretion must continue from the age of puberty to the "turn of life," without unnatural obstruction; and inattention to this fact has consigned thousands of females to untimely graves. A remedy for all these troubles has been prepared by a medical profession, which will relieve old and young of these monthly excesses and weaknesses; will restore nature; will strengthen the weak and debilitated; will give rotundity and shape to the lean and haggard, and will impart iron to the impoverished blood. Dr. Dromgool's English Female Bitters is the remedy and will do the work to satisfaction.

## Strange People Travel.

A conductor on the Pacific railroad, said to a reporter a few days ago: "We encounter strange people on the trains. We catch all kinds and all classes. A well dressed lady handed me a note the other day. She wanted whisky. The note said:—"

Conductor—Would it be too much of an imposition to ask you to get me a half pint of whisky when we reach St. Louis. I feel as if I am going to chill and would like to prevent it. I will give you the money to get it any time, providing you have the time."

"I let the lady get her own whisky when the train reached St. Louis, and that was the last I saw of her," the conductor continued.

## Hibbard's Rheumatic Liver Pills

These pills are scientifically compounded, uniform in action. No gripping pain so commonly following the use of pills. They are adapted to both adults and children with perfect safety. We guarantee they have a "qu" in the cure of Sick Headache, Constipation, Dyspepsia, Bilelessness, and, as an appetizer, they excel any other preparation. W. E. Bard, druggist

## A HOLDUP.

## H. A. Markel Held Up and Gone Through in Broad Daylight.

This morning between 8 and 9 o'clock, three men displayed a good deal of gall. As Mr. H. A. Markel was going to his business he took his usual route from Broadway, along the Narrow Gauge, and when across from the M. K. & T. shops three well dressed men stepped out from behind long lines of cars ordered him to stand and deliver. Mr. Markel not thinking but what they were some of his acquaintances whom he did not recognize began to laugh, when the leader, who is described as a slightly built man with a light mustache, dressed in a very good black coat and vest, light checked pants and cloth topped gaiter shoes, drew a revolver and compelled Mr. Markel to hold up his hands.

Mr. Markel then saw he was in for it, and immediately complied. The three men went into all of his pockets. When they came to his watch he told them that it was not his, but belonged to one of the boys in the shops, they gave it back to him remarking that it was "no good anyhow." After taking all that was of any value, amounting to a few dollars, the robbers ordered him to move on, which he did with a great deal of alacrity.

## Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

## Circuit Court.

C. H. McAlister vs. Missouri Pacific Co., and Fisher, replevin. Judgment set aside as to sureties, order overruling motion to set aside judgment, as to sureties, set aside and motion sustained.

Louis Deutsch vs. H. H. Dix, damages, motion for new trial overruled.

George Heard vs. James E. Ritchey, et al., damages; motion to set aside non-suit overruled.

Martha E. Smith, et al. vs. John R. Clouston et al., note. Judgment for plaintiff by default for \$565.40 at ten per cent interest.

S. B. Cohen vs. W. P. King, replevin. Time for filing bond extended until noon, May 29th.

Sarah E. Bradley vs. Jacob Farmer, ejectment. Motion for judgment on the stipulations sustained.

W. V. Jaynes vs. W. U. Telegraph company. Dismissed.

Hirsch, Elson & Company vs. Henry A. Hoppe, notes. Judgment for plaintiff for \$471.71 at six per cent.

State ex rel, C. H. Dewar et al vs. Wm. Deering & Company et al. Defendant have leave to withdraw answer and file motion to make petition more definite.

Daniel David vs. Johnathan Evans, equity; judgment for plaintiff for \$196.15.

Conrad Hilderbrandt vs. City of Sedalia, injunction; cause continued generally on application of plaintiff.

Chas. T. Renssion vs. Etta Renssion; divorce. Plaintiff makes and files proof of publication.

D. W. Thompson vs. James S. Hopkins, Plaintiff files motion for judgment, and defendant enters voluntary appearance in writing.

E. C. and W. H. Dyans vs. William Phillips, note; plaintiff dismisses suit and withdraws note.

Settlement A. W. Leake vs. J. R. Clouston, assignee; assignee files report and notice of final discharge ordered printed in the Sentinel.

Mary Kimball vs. James H. Kimball, divorce; evidence heard, divorce granted and former name of Mary Farley restored.

Settlement of A. B. Van Valkenburg and John E. Wright assignee; Hufnagel Shoe Company file separate motion to have mortgage paid; W. S. Mackey Shoe Company file separate motion to have mortgage paid.

J. E. Leggett vs. the school district of the city of Sedalia; Bonds and coupons. Plaintiff files reply.

Michael Smith vs. A. Farnham; replevin; order overruling demurrer to evidence set aside.

E. J. Smith vs. Curtis Field; account death of defendant suggested, and writ ordered to Cedar county to W. C. Cruce, administrator.

Mary E. Campbell vs. W. L. Corum; damages, defendant files motion for new trial.

T. H. Wyrick vs. Jas. S. Ream et al.; appeal; deposition of John Carter on behalf of plaintiff filed.

Caroline Ruckle vs. A. S. Blades; replevin judgment for possession of property and one cent damages and costs.

Jacob Schmidt vs. A. S. Blades; replevin; same entry.

Mary C. Small et al. vs. Robert Carpenter et al.; partition; Judgment for partition. J. C. Johnson

J. R. Clouston and P. G. Stafford appointed commissioners,

## Pimples AND Blotches

ARE EVIDENCE That the blood is wrong, and that nature is endeavoring to throw off the impurities. Nothing is so beneficial in assisting nature as Swift's Specific (S. S. S.) It is a simple vegetable compound, is harmless to the most delicate child, yet it forces the poison to the surface and eliminates it from the blood.

I contracted a severe case of blood poison that unfitted me for business for four years. A few bottles of Swift's Specific (S. S. S.) cured me. J. C. Jones, City Marshal, Fulton, Arkansas. Treatise on Blood and Skin Diseases mailed free. SWIFT SPECIFIC CO., Atlanta, Ga.

Rebecca French vs. Wm. French; divorce; cause taken up, evidence heard and decree granted.

Bettie B. Blair vs. John H. Bain, divorce, same entry.

Abner R. Driskill vs. Alexander G. Hood; equity; by agreement of injunction, made perpetual against defendant and successors in office.

E. M. Richardson et al. vs. Houston Richardson et al.; partition; judgment for partition. T. J. Heffner, Frank Elliott and A. P. Morey appointed commissioners.

Jennie E. Murphy vs. Edward Murphy; divorce; decree granted and maiden name of Jennie E. Poincignon restored.

To-morrow the tax cases will be disposed of. Court will probably adjourn for this term, Saturday.

## Democratic Convention.

The Democratic county convention met this afternoon at 1 o'clock. A full representation was present. Lawyer Geo. P. Jackson was in the chair, and Jno. A. Hannay as secretary. There were no instructions, but the delegation is solid for R. M. Scotter, as state superintendent of schools and practically solid for Love, of Jackson county, for railroad commissioner.

The following list of names were elected as congressional delegates and instructed for Hon. Jno. T. Heard:

J. N. Ferguson, J. G. Flemming, Ben Porter, D. H. O'Rear, Thos. Nelson, F. C. Heyman, J. J. Grey, A. H. Collier, Jno. M. Baldwin, J. H. Doyle, Bd. Hurlay, Jno. A. Hannay and M. Sweeney.

The state delegates were: W. D. Steele, W. F. Tuttle, John Senior, Mont. Carnes, Doc. Graham, Mike Dougherty, V. B. Shelton.

McElree's WINE OF CARDUI for female diseases.

## No Will Found.

Yesterday evening the widow and family and heirs of the late Major Gentry met in the city and took charge of his private deposit of valuable papers at the First National bank. They were carefully gone through with. No will was discovered nor any directions left as to what should be the procedure after his death.

The law gives the widow the right to administer on the estate of her deceased husband. She can be the administratrix if she so elects. In this case the estate being of such magnitude she did not feel equal to the task and Mrs. Gentry waived her right in the premises.

The heirs then agreed that Jno. R. Gentry, the youngest son of the deceased and manager of Locust Grove farm and J. C. Thompson, cashier of the First National bank, should be appointed joint administrators of the estate. This was agreeable to all. Mr. Thompson who is absent in New York has not been counseled in the matter, but will probably accept the trust.

In round numbers the estate is valued at about \$250,000, which will require a bond from the administrators of \$500,000. Major Gentry carried a life policy of \$10,000 which was made payable to the children, each one being named in the policy.

## A Deadly Weapon.

Carelessness in purifying the blood leaves you at the mercy of that insidious enemy BLOOD POISON, which sooner or later will strike its fatal blow. Hibbard's Rheumatic Syrup has no equal as a blood remedy, and should be taken by every person in the spring. Its efficacy has been proven by thousands of testimonies like the following:

GENTLEMEN: I have been a great sufferer for over ten years. My whole system became deranged from diseased blood, and I was attacked with the worst forms of kidney and liver trouble, dyspepsia, neuralgia and rheumatism. My sufferings cannot be described. The sallowness of my skin disgusted me, and the neuralgia pain was so severe that it contracted the muscles of my face, partially closing my right eye. The ablest doctors gave no relief, but I am now entirely cured by Hibbard's Rheumatic Syrup, and wish to recommend it to all as a wonderful blood medicine. MRS. A. D. NOBLE.

Cor. Mechanic and Mayson Streets, Jackson, Mich.

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